

IT'S A JOB.
DO IT RIGHT!

YOU'RE NOT MAD,
ARE YOU? THIS IS
NOTHING~

EH?

YOU
STILL HAVEN'T
CONTACTED
THEM?

PHONE!

EH~~~~

IT'S FOOLISH.
SUDDENLY RECRUITING
SOMEONE OUT OF THE
BLUE IS SUSPICIOUS,
AIN'T IT?

HIS
FRIEND,

THANKS FOR
CALLING.

THIS IS FLAT
ENTERTAINMENT
AGENCY.

APOLOGIZES
FOR CALLING
OUT OF THE
BLUE.

WE WERE
ASSIGNED AN
INTERVIEW AT
FOUR IN THE
AFTERNOON.

THIS IS—...

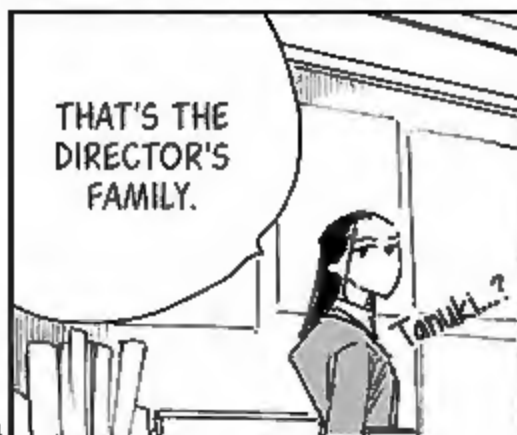
YUUJIN
KAMOSHIMA!





Ch. 2

Happy Days



NO, PLEASE
ALLOW ME TO
REPHRASE
THAT.

IS THIS A
FAMILY RUN
BUSINESS?

THE
DIRECTOR
SIMPLY LIVES IN
THE BACK OF
THE BUILDING...

WE
SINCERELY
APPRECIATE YOU
TAKING THE TIME
TO COME VISIT
OUR COMPANY
TODAY.

MY NAME IS
TSUMETA.

OUR
COMPANY'S FOCUS
IS ON MANAGING
ACTORS LIKE
YOURSELF.

KAZUE TSUMETA (30)

OCCUPATION: ENTERTAINMENT AGENT
MANAGER



MAYBE I
DON'T NEED
TO JOIN AN
OFFICE AFTER
ALL—

YUJIN-
SAN,

HMN~

HEY,
TAKARA.

WHAT'S
WRONG?

WELL YES,
BUT I'M TALKING
ABOUT BIGGER
ROLES IN MOVIES,
OR EVEN IN A
DRAMA.

WELL I'VE
ALREADY
BEEN IN
A MOVIE

AND THAT
WAS ON MY
OWN.

WHY'S
THAT?

IF THEY ARE NOT
AWARE OF YOUR
EXISTENCE,

THEN YOU
WILL NEVER BE
CONSIDERED FOR
THE ROLE.

MOST
LEAD ROLES
IN DRAMAS AND
BLOCKBUSTER
HITS

ARE
DETERMINED
BY WHO YOU
KNOW.



AH.

....
.....
....



OUR OFFICE
ACTS LIKE A
DOORWAY TO
THE PATH THAT
IS YOUR OWN
CAREER.

WE WANT THE
WORLD TO KNOW
WHO YOU ARE.



SAYIN'
THAT
NOW?

The one
I left behind.

YUJIN-
SAN, THE
KEY.

Don't
connect
that with
this.



"SEEKING
THE"

"BUBBLE
REPUTATION."



I AM
DOING
THIS PART-
TIME.

THIS
WOULD BE
TOO MUCH
FOR ME.

EXCUSE
ME, BUT

SURE,
I WOULD
GET MORE
BY BEING
A GUEST
ACTOR,

DO
CONSIDER
YOUR CURRENT
FINANCIAL
SITUATION?



I CAME
BECAUSE
YUJIN-SAN
SAID TO,
BUT

I AM NOT SO
SURE ABOUT
BECOMING
FAMOUS.



AND
ON OTHER
MATTERS,

LIKE JEEZ,
YUUJIN-SAN
HANDLES IT
ALL.

BUT THAT
DOES NOT MEAN
I WANT TO BE IN
ANY DRAMAS OR
BESTSELLING
MOVIES.



ARE YOU
REFERRING
TO AGENCY
MATTERS?

ON OTHER
MATTERS?



FOR MY
SHIFTS AND
THE LIKE.

HE
MAKES A
CALENDAR.

MANAGES
MY SCHE-
DULE.

LIKE MY
TRANSPOR-
TATION.

HE LOOKS
INTO WHAT
STOPS TO
TAKE.

HE
READS MY
SCRIPTS.

HE
LOOKS FOR
AUDITION INFO
AND THEN AR-
RANGES MY
ROLES.

YUUJIN-SAN
LAYS IT ALL
OUT FOR
ME...

IT'S ALWAYS
BEEN JUST
US TWO.



KAMOSHIMA-
SAN,

....
.....
....

**I'M AN
ACTOR!!**

ARE YOU
TAKARADA-SAN'S
MANAGER?

I DON'T
REALLY WANT
TO CHANGE
IT...

WE HAVE
GOTTEN BY
LIKE THIS JUST
FINE,

I AM
BAD AT
MANAGING
AND PLAN-
NING,

SO I
LEAVE IT TO
YUJIN-SAN
SINCE IT IS
HIS THING.

IT IS
CONFUSING,
BUT

YUJIN-SAN
ALSO...

SO
UMM,

BECAUSE
IF NOT, THEN IT
WOULD BE BEST
FOR HIM TO
RECONSIDER.

DOES HE GET
COMPENSATED
FOR WHAT HE
DOES?

BEARING
ALL THAT ON
HIS SHOULDERS CAN
RJIN AN OTHERWISE
SOUND RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN YOU
TWO.

JUST HOW
LONG CAN YOU
TAKE HIS KINDNESS
AND GOODWILL
FOR GRANTED?

WHAT
KAMOSHIMA-SAN
DOES IS THE JOB
OF A MANAGER

IT'S
SOMETHING
DESERVING OF
COMPENSATION

IT'S
NOT SOME
BURDEN!!

TO BE
THE BEST
ACTOR IN THE
WORLD.

I JUST
WANT HIM



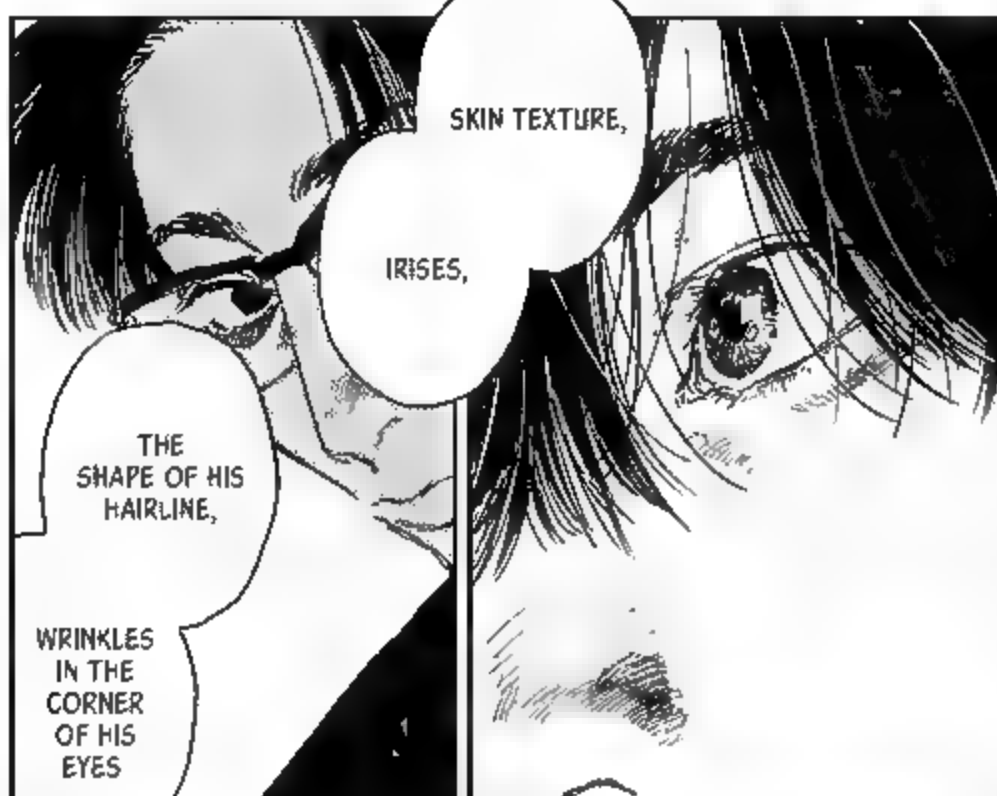
BEING UP
CLOSE WITH
TAKARADA-
SAN,

I CAN SEE
THE DRAW
HE HAS ON
PEOPLE.

AND AFTER
TODAY, I AM
EVEN MORE
INTERESTED.



I WANT
THE SAME
THING FOR
HIM.

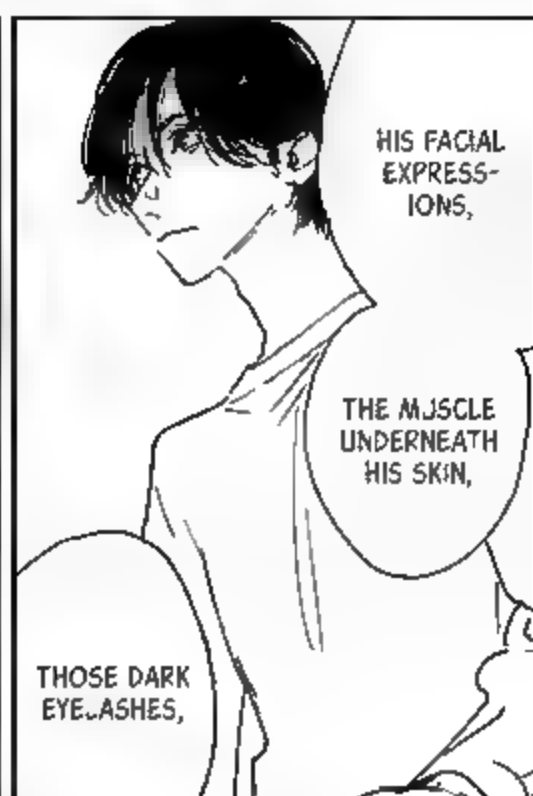


SKIN TEXTURE,

IRISES,

THE
SHAPE OF HIS
HAIRLINE,

WRINKLES
IN THE
CORNER
OF HIS
EYES



HIS FACIAL
EXPRESS-
IONS,

THE MUSCLE
UNDERNEATH
HIS SKIN,

THOSE DARK
EYELASHES,



IT IS A SHAME
THEY ARE THE ONLY
ONES WHO CAN
SEE THIS.

BUT,
CAPTURED IN
THE LENS OF
A CAMERA, WE
COULD SHOW
YOU TO THE
WORLD.

THE FEW
PEOPLE IN THE
FRONT ROW,

AND YOUR
CO-STARS;



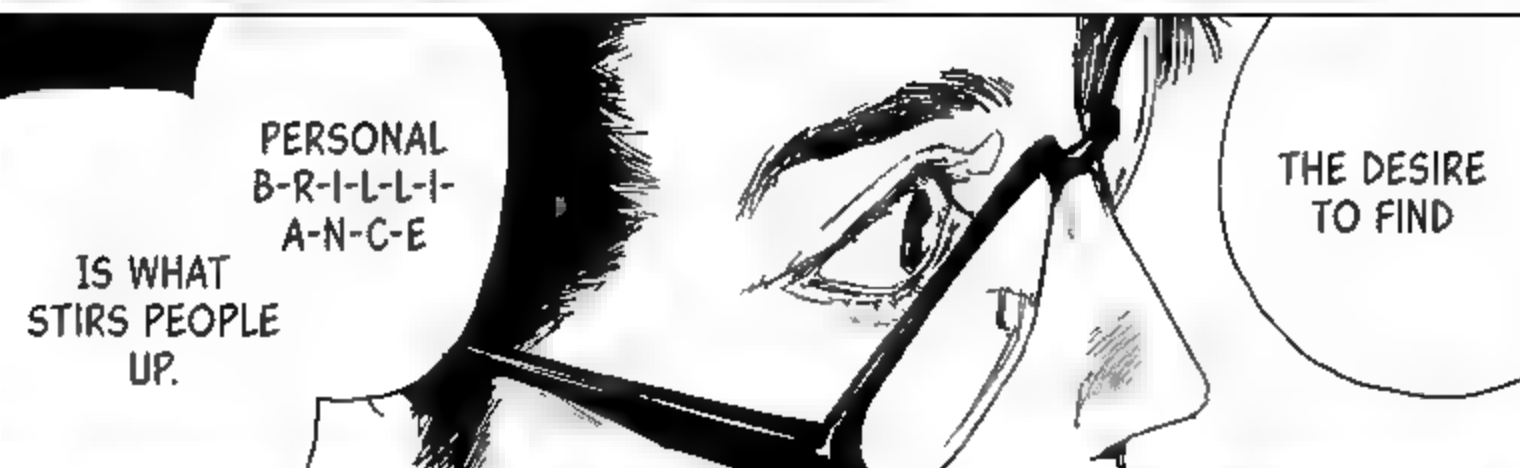
THERE
IS SO MUCH
MORE TO HIM
THAN JUST HIS
ACTING SKILLS.



.....
.....
.....
AS FOR
PLAYS?

FOR YOU
TO SAY ALL
THAT

KAMO-
SHIMA-
SAN,



PERSONAL
B-R-I-L-L-I-
A-N-C-E

IS WHAT
STIRS PEOPLE
UP.

THE DESIRE
TO FIND



EVERYONE

WANTS TO BE
ENAMORED BY
SOMEONE.

I CAN'T
SEE A REASON
WHY NOT! DID
HE SIGN?

SORRY.

NO, ACTJALLY,
HE'S RELUCTANT
BECAUSE OF THE
DIRECTOR

YOU
FOR
REAL?!

YOU
CONSULT
THIS WITH
ME!?

...NO.

I'M THE
CHAIRMAN,
HERE!?

HERO THEATRICAL COMPANY
CHAIRMAN HIDEO MIZUNO

14

I'LL DO
IT LATER.

BUT REALLY,
THIS S NUTS—
A STAR BORN
FROM OUR
TROUPE?

YOU SURE
IT'S NOT A
SCAM?

BRING
US SOME
CUSTOMERS,
TAKARA!

WHEN YOU
GO BACK, YOU
HAVE TO SIGN
THAT CON-
TRACT

DO IT
WHEN YOU'RE
BACK!!

RIGHT
AWAY!!

AAAAHHHHHH

TAKARA,
RIGHT!

WOAH!

HAHA,
YOU'RE

THE
T-SHIRT HE
WORE WAS
A MAZE.

I SEE

TAKARA GOT
DISTRACTED
JUST FROM
LOOKING AT
IT

IT'LL BE
A WHOLE NEW
WORLD.

TAKARA,
THIS IS A
SERIOUS
OFFER.

IT'S
INCREDIBLE
THAT YOU WERE
SOUGHT OUT BY
THEM! THIS IS
AN OPPOR-
TUNITY!

I JUST
WANT

TO HAVE
FUN ACTING
WITH EVERY-
ONE.

DON'T BE
QUICK TO MAKE
SUCH A LACK-
LUSTER GE-
STURE!!

YAY.

I KNOW
YOUR NERVES
ARE PROBABLY
IN SHAMBLES
RIGHT NOW,

BUT YOU
CAN'T SAY NO
JUST CAUSE OF
THAT

DO YOU
THINK THEY
CAN HAVE
FUN

WITH
THE GUY WHO
REJECTED
A SCOUT,
TAKARA?

FUN?

TO SEE
SOMEONE
WHO COULD
HAVE GONE
FARTHER,

I KNOW
I'D HATE
THEM.

YET
STAYED
BACK TO
TAKE THE
EASY ROUTE
IN LIFE.

I THINK
I'D DESPISE
THAT PERSON
FOR THE REST
OF MY DAYS.

I MEAN,
YOU JUST
SAID NOT
TO TAKE
THE EASY
ROUTE!

BUT
WOULD HE
BE BETTER OFF
IF HE SETTLES
WITH WHAT
HE HAS
NOW?

**HUU-
UUHH?!**

YOU.
HOW LONG
DO YOU THINK
I'VE KEPT THIS
TROUPE GOING,
HUH?

YUUJIN IS
JUST SAYIN'
HE'LL BE
LONELY.

TAKARA,
IT'S GONNA
BE HARD TO
DO THINGS
TOGETHER WHEN
YOU'RE ON THE
RED CARPET—
WON'T IT!!

I'LL BE
FINE EVEN
WHEN HE
IS.

I'LL BE FINE
JUST CASUALLY
MEETING HIM
AND SAYING,
"GOOD JOB!"

**STOP
MAKING
IT LOOK
SO BLEAK!**





WHY NOT
JUST ASK
HER?

SHE HAS
A GOOD
VOICE

THINK SHE'S
DONE ACTING
BEFORE?

YUP.

FROM
NOW ON, HAVE
TSUMETA-SAN
WAKE YOU UP



HOW COULD
YOU SAY THAT!!

NO WAY
MY ASS!!

**NO
WAY!!!**

I WON'T
ALLOW
IT!!



NA?
IGHT?

GOOD
MORNING.
THIS IS TSUMETA
FROM FLAT
ENTERTAIN-
MENT.

WE SCHEDULED
YOU TO GUEST STAR
FOR A NIGHT DRAMA
ON TOKYO TV

I AM SORRY,
WERE YOU ON
A BREAK?



WE
DO NOT HAVE
~~TIME~~
BEFORE THE
FILMING,
SO...

WOAH..
AMAZING.

I SENT THE
SCRIPT TO ARRIVE
~~YOUR~~
~~MAILBOX~~

TAKARADA-SAN?

TAKARADA-SAN?

THE DRAMA
IS A BUDDY-COP
DRAMA,

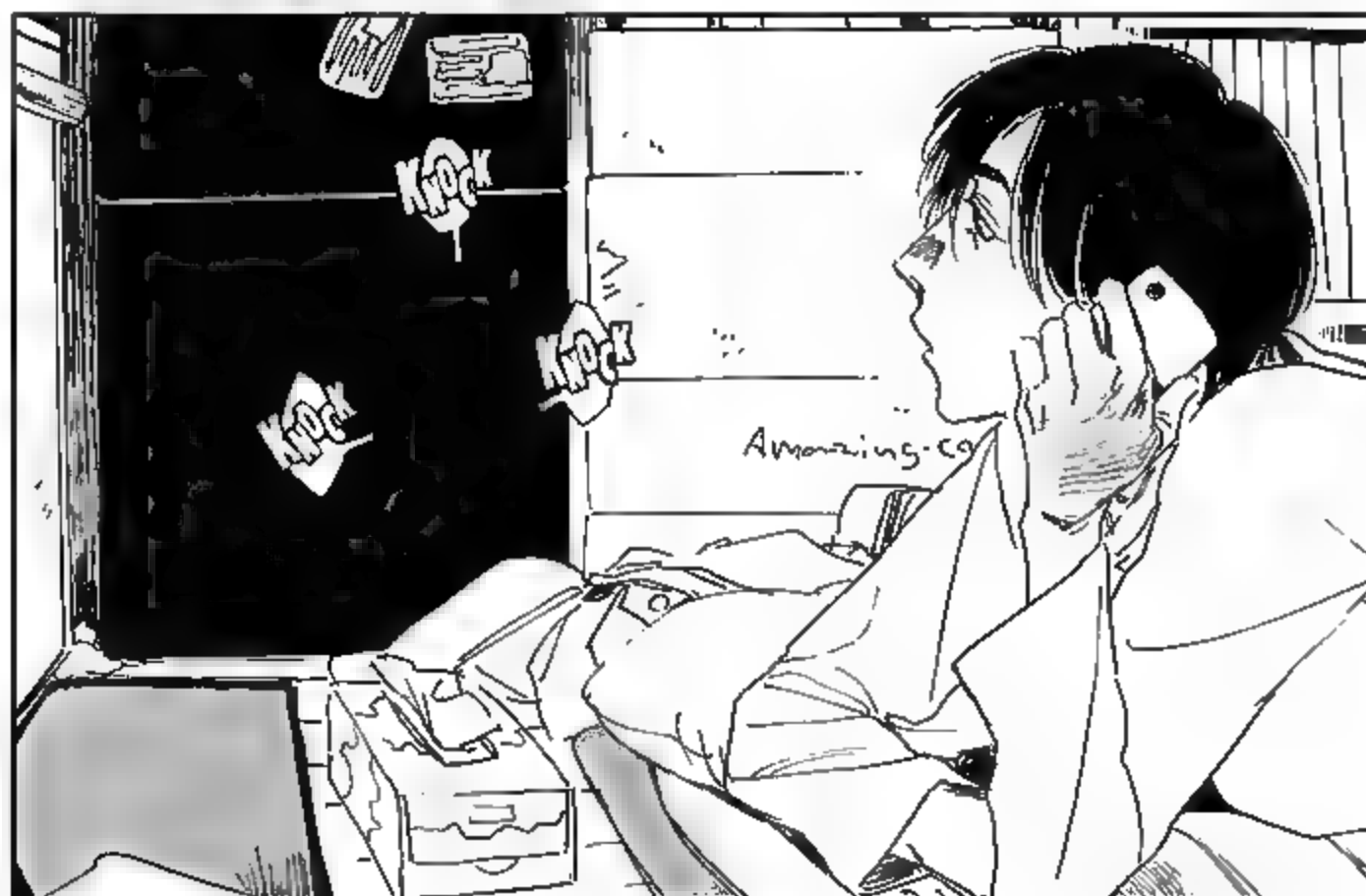
WHERE YOU WILL
PLAY THE ROLE OF
THE SUSPECT'S
LOVER.

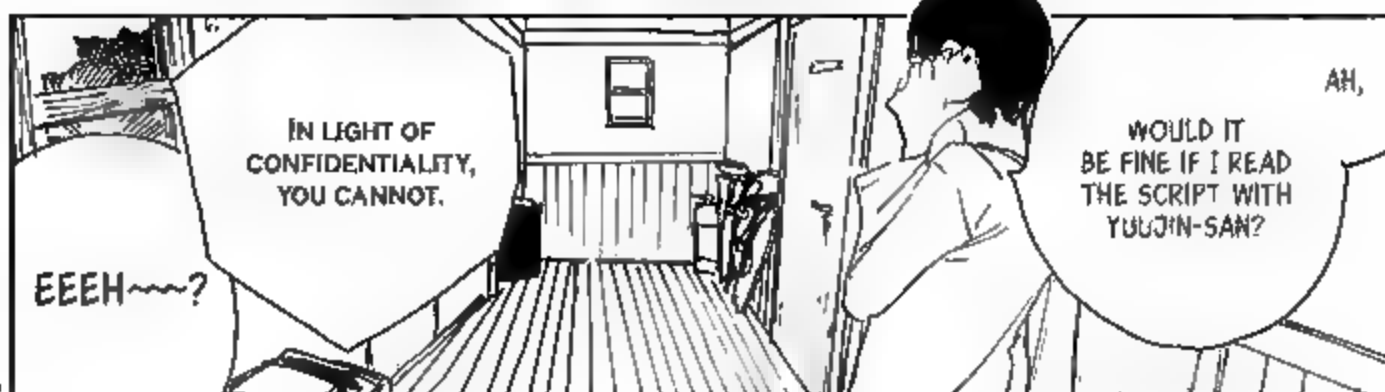


WHHA-

Jolt

TAKARA-SAN?





IF YOU
NEED THE HELP,
I AM HERE.

HMM.

CREAK

TAKARA-SAN.

KUXX...

DO YOUR
BEST, OKAY?



YES,

I WILL
TRY.





Correction

Ch. 1 (pg. 37)



Ch. 2 (pg. 53)



A slight mistranslation from chapter 1. The translation is right with the exception that “even I” wants to be the best actor in the world. However in chapter 2 , we see him put his dreams aside to instead of propel his friend Takarada-san forward. Probably because he sees he has more talent than him (poor Yuujin-san.)